



St. Louis Audubon Society



Tale Feathers

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FEBRUARY 1998

Brad Jacobs to Discuss Breeding Bird Atlas at February Meeting

by Jim Holsen

Brad Jacobs, an ornithologist and wildlife biologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will discuss "The Breeding Bird Atlas--What It Means for Birders in Missouri" at a joint Audubon and Webster Groves Nature Study Society meeting on Friday, February 13, at 8 pm at the headquarters of the St. Louis County Library.

The Atlas, prepared by Brad Jacobs and James D. Wilson and published last summer, includes maps which document the status and distribution of all bird species that were known to breed in Missouri in the years 1986 through 1992. Many local birders contributed their time, conducting the surveys that made this Atlas possible.

Are populations of our neotropical migrants (warblers, thrushes, etc.) declining, or not? And how about the populations of our grassland birds? They are said to be declining even more rapidly. These are some questions that Brad should be able to help us understand.

Brad, an Audubon member and president of the Columbia, Missouri, Audubon Society, is chairman, on behalf of the Missouri Audubon Council, of the committee that is working for the establishment of a Missouri state office for National Audubon. Brad has also been active in planning National Audubon's campaign, now getting underway, for the ecological restoration of the Upper Mississippi River.

This meeting will be held at 8 pm in the large auditorium at the St. Louis County Library's headquarters building on Lindbergh Boulevard, opposite Frontenac Plaza, near the Clayton Road/Lindbergh intersection. The auditorium is along the north side of the building.

The Last Great Wilderness-- Special Meeting on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

by Jim Holsen

On Monday evening, February 9, the St. Louis Audubon Society will cosponsor a special meeting with the Sierra Club featuring Lenny Kohm, a widely known environmental photographer. Kohm will present a multi-media program and discussion concerning proposed development by the petroleum industry on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Protection of this Refuge has been a priority campaign, and so far a successful one, for the National Audubon Society.

Lenny Kohm first covered the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for *Audubon* magazine in the mid-80's. He became so intrigued with the Refuge and with the native Americans who make their living there that since that time, he has been touring the country, calling attention to the dangers of exploitation.

The program will be held at 7:30 pm at the Powder Valley Nature Center of the Missouri Department of Conservation in Kirkwood at 11715 Cragwood Road, off Geyer Road, near the intersection of I-44 and I-270.

Winter Birding Heats Up

by Jim Malone

Well, January has come and gone, and there should be bald eagles standing on ice chunks in the Mississippi River at Alton, but it just hasn't been cold enough. Recently some of the local bodies of water are beginning to freeze over, but the winter has been pretty mild to this point.

With the onslaught of the first real cold push, we are finally beginning to see some of the winter gulls we have grown used to in the St. Louis area.

On January 17, lesser black-backed, great black-backed, glaucous, Thayer's and Iceland gulls were identified in the area near Horseshoe Lake in southern Illinois. The careful observer may find these birds mixed in flocks of ring-billed and herring gulls congregating at the edge of openings in the ice.

Creve Coeur Lake has been home for a young sandhill crane since December. Initially, the bird would stay in the shallow water at the south end of the lake, fishing with the great blue herons. More recently, it has taken to a more "crane-like" feeding style and is spending many of the daylight hours foraging in nearby cornfields.

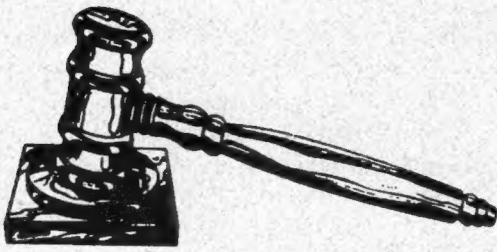
Mid-winter is a good time to check out local feeders for winter specialties. Recent visits to the Fallen Oak Nature Trail at Busch Conservation Area turned up more than 100 purple finches, brown creepers, white-breasted nuthatches, and lots of chickadees, woodpeckers, cardinals, juncos, and goldfinches. If you look on the ground below the feeders, you might see a striking, red- and gray-patterned fox sparrow scratching at the ground for seeds scattered across the leaf litter. You probably *will* find white-throated sparrows on the ground with the juncos or hear them whistling from the nearby trees.

Another winter treat is the nearly annual visits of pine siskins at area feeders. This winter, feeder observers throughout St. Louis have reported siskins in varying numbers.

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From Your President

by Jim Holsen

Funding Sought for Audubon's Missouri State Office

The Missouri Audubon Council's proposal for a Missouri state office is on hold until preliminary funding can be assured. National Audubon wants to avoid problems that have plagued other state offices, where the directors have often found it difficult to run an effective office with inadequate funds—where neither fund raising nor conservation can be done effectively. February will see the beginning of an active fund raising campaign.

State offices promise to invigorate Audubon, providing paid, full-time staff to do many tasks that volunteers with limited and meager budgets cannot accomplish. State offices may be expected to have specialists in wetlands and forestry management. A wetlands specialist could evaluate wetlands threatened by development, check up on the quality of mitigation wetlands offered to substitute for wetlands lost to construction, and work with landowners to restore endangered wetlands. A forestry specialist could visit and evaluate on the site areas in our national forests that have been proposed for salvage cutting, or clear cutting. And he or she could evaluate the quality of forested areas that are threatened by mining claims. With state offices, Audubon can become a more effective force for the protection of birds, other wildlife, and wildlife habitat—Audubon's goals under its new strategic plan.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has given the Missouri Audubon Council \$25,000 for the new state office. This gift expires at the end of April, but it is expected that it will be renewed if we are making progress. The Packard Foundation has given us \$100,000 in matching funds, to match contributions which we can obtain in Missouri.

The February fund raising drive will be aimed at 2 groups of donors. About the middle of February, the West Central Regional Office of National Audubon will mail letters to all Audubon members in the region asking for

contributions. Contributions from Missouri Audubon members will go toward the establishment of the state office and will probably be requested in the range of \$100 to \$500. At the same time, appeals will be made to individuals who may be able to give much larger sums.

A search for a state office director will begin after some \$70,000 in additional funds have been pledged. National Audubon wants to make Missouri a good example of how to get a state office successfully funded and operating. Missouri Audubon members have much to gain by making their contributions count for conservation of Missouri's wildlife resources. Missouri voters have consistently supported conservation and state parks by large majorities. Missouri Audubon members can continue this tradition by contributing significant amounts to the establishment of a state office.

Winter Birding . . . from page 1

The Arboretum at Gray Summit is always a good spot for birding, and this winter has been no exception. In addition to siskins, finches, and native sparrows at the office feeders, a pair of white-winged crossbills have been seen (and heard) terrorizing the pine cones around the Pinetum and down Wolf Run Trail.

This year St. Louis Audubon did not schedule birding trips for February, but there's no reason you can't go out on your own and enjoy the season. Check in on local feeders at nature centers and parks to hone your sparrow and finch identification skills. If this is a bit tame for your taste, drive up the river road from Alton to Grafton, Illinois, looking for rafts of waterfowl, flocks of gulls, and soaring bald eagles along the picturesque bluffs. On the way, don't forget to stop in Elsah and look at some of the most productive feeders in the 2-state area.

Our next regularly scheduled walk will be at 9 am on March 8 at Busch Conservation Area in St. Charles County. This is something of a transition time of year for birding in the St. Louis area—too early for the migrating warblers, but often at the point when waterfowl begin to move north to stake out the year's breeding sites. Busch contains enough variety of habitat to offer good selections of waterfowl, hawks, feeder birds, wintering warblers, and a few surprises. On March 28, join us at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area as we celebrate what we hope will be a warm, early spring day. See you there!

Get to Know

. . . Ed Ortleb

(This is the twenty-first in a series of articles written about and by St. Louis Audubon board members themselves so that all our membership can be better acquainted with our decision makers on the board.)

When I was 11 years old, I convinced my parents to let me keep a box turtle at home. In order to care for it properly, I read a lot of books about reptiles. This led to spending a lot of time in the woods and forests learning about nature. Encouragement from teachers and work as a camp counselor increased my interest and study of science.

Before retirement, my professional career was a very satisfying combination of work in science and science education. During the summers I had opportunities to conduct ecology-based research. Most of this work was done in association with Owen J. Sexton from Washington University. A number of our projects were conducted in the Panama rainforests and Missouri glades.

The major part of my 39 years of teaching was as the science supervisor for the St. Louis Public Schools. I also served for 15 years as an adjunct faculty member of Washington University's biology department.

In the early 1960's, I took on the responsibility of handling the school programs of the Audubon Lecture Series in St. Louis. I had an opportunity to meet many of the top naturalist/photographers on the lecture circuit. One day, Earl Hath, a long-time president of the St. Louis Audubon Society, called and asked if I was interested in becoming a board member. I had to inform him that I wasn't even a member of Audubon. He replied that this could easily be remedied and promptly asked me to join and to send in my dues.

I served on the board for a number of years and chaired the committee that selected individuals for Audubon camp scholarships. At that time our Society funded as many as 5 persons to attend camps. During the 1970's, I became active in several science education organizations and held national offices, which prevented a continuing active role in the St. Louis Audubon Society.

Now retired, I am enjoying the time to do a variety of things in the outdoors. I am involved in a box turtle study and in resurrecting an overgrown glade. Of course, the real fun is introducing my 5 grandchildren to the world of nature.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audubon Birding Trips

Bring binoculars, bird field guide, & dress for field conditions & weather. Coaching & instruction for all levels. For confirmation & more information, call trip leaders Paul Bauer (H# 921-3972) or Jim Malone (H# 536-1119).

Busch Conservation Area — *Sunday, March 8*, at 9 am. In St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south of US 40, 1 mile to right on Hwy D. Go 1.5 miles to entrance on right. Pass through HQ area & gate to Hampton Lake parking lot. See waterfowl, hawks, feeder birds, wintering warblers, & a few surprises. See "Winter Birding" article on page 1.

Riverlands — *Saturday, March 28*, at 8 am. In St. Charles County near Alton, IL. Take Hwy 367 north of I-270, across Missouri River to right on last road before Mississippi River. Go east from gas station; turn right on first road to Teal Pond parking lot.

Busch Conservation Area — *Saturday, April 18*, at 6:30 pm. Special woodcock/owl prowl conducted by Jim Malone. Bring flashlight, boots, & dress for weather. See directions in 1st Busch entry.

Audubon-Related Activities

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Program — *Monday, February 9*, at 7:30 pm. Lenny Kohm will present multi-media program & discussion on proposed development by petroleum industry of refuge's coastal plain. Held at Powder Valley Nature Center & cosponsored by Sierra Club & St. Louis Audubon. See related article on page 1.

Joint WGNSS/Audubon Membership Meeting — *Friday, February 13*, at 8 pm. Held in large auditorium of St. Louis County Library on Lindbergh Blvd. Brad Jacobs, ornithologist & wildlife biologist with Missouri Conservation Department, will discuss "The Breeding Bird Atlas: What It Means for Birders in Missouri." See related article on page 1.

National Audubon Society West Central Regional River Conference — *Friday - Saturday, March 13 to 15*, in Kearney, Nebraska. Call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410, for info. & registration materials.

St. Louis Audubon Annual Dinner & Meeting — *Thursday, April 23*, at Agusti's Restaurant. Program to be announced. Mark this **Thursday evening** now on your calendar!

Audubon Society of Missouri Spring Meeting — *Friday - Sunday, April 24 to 26*, at Mingo NWR. For more info., call Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972. See related article on page 7.

Missouri Audubon Council Spring Meeting — *Sunday, April 26*. For more info., call Jim Holsen, H# 822-0410.

Special Events

Urban Wildlife: Pleasure or Plague — *Wednesday, February 18*, 7:30 to 9 pm. Dr. Lonnie Hansen, Research Department of

Missouri Conservation Department, is presenter. Part of SIGMA XI Science Seminar Series cosponsored by St. Louis Zoo & Academy of Science St. Louis. Free seminar held in The Living World, north side of Zoo; free parking in north lot. For more info., call 768-5466 or 533-8083.

Wetlands for Kids — *Saturday, March 14*, at Busch Conservation Area. For more details, call Jim Garr, 441-4554.

World Bird Sanctuary's Eagle Days — *Saturday, March 21*, at Lone Elk County Park. For more info., call 225-4390.

1998 North American Ornithological Conference — *Monday - Sunday, April 6 to 12*, in St. Louis. Conference includes annual meetings of American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Colonial Waterbird Society, Cooper Ornithological Society, Wilson Ornithological Society, & special symposium of Raptor Research Foundation. For more info., contact Bette A. Loiselle (ph. 516-6224) or John G. Blake (ph. 516-6578), Biology Dept., University of MO-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121. Call Bette to volunteer to help with convention registration; call Paul Bauer, H# 921-3972, to help escort local field trips. Volunteers may get free passes to convention sessions & social events.

Plan Now to Attend St. Louis Audubon's Annual Dinner and Meeting THURSDAY, April 23

Cash Bar at 6:30 pm; Dinner at 7:30 pm
Program (*to be announced*) will follow dinner.

Agusti's Restaurant
2300 Edwards St.
St. Louis, MO

Please note that this year's dinner is being held on a **Thursday evening**, not the traditional Friday night. Watch April issue of *Tale Feathers* for full details & reservation form. For more info., call **Tom Day**, H# 962-4064.

The Conservation Corner

Missouri Legislative Priorities Selected

by Jim Holsen

Every January the Missouri Audubon Council, representing the 14 Audubon Societies in Missouri, meets with Scott Penman, its legislative representative in Jefferson City, to discuss pending legislation and to select the priority issues that Audubon chapters think are most important. While many bills will still be introduced, those issues which will agitate the legislators are fairly well identified at this point in the session.

After reviewing some 24 environmental-related bills which have been introduced in the House and 18 in the Senate, the delegates decided on the following priorities:

In line with Audubon's focus on birds, other wildlife and habitat, the Council gave its highest priority to the issue of high capacity chip mills now being introduced into the Ozarks. These mills have a voracious appetite for timber that threatens to result in extensive clear cutting and devastation of our forests. No legislation has yet been introduced relating to chip mills, but Joan Bray (University City) and Wayne Goode (Normandy) intend to introduce 2 bills in the House and Senate, respectively. The first will call for a moratorium on new mills until a study of their effects is completed. The second provides a process through which landowners can be informed of the benefits of good forest management practices before they sell their timber to chip mill operators. These bills have the support of Roger Pryor at the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Second priority went to the support of State Senator Wayne Goode's Senate Joint Resolution (SJR 22) calling for a constitutional amendment providing that revenues to the Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources from the conservation and state parks sales taxes are not subject to the limitations of the Hancock Amendment. The argument here is that sales tax revenues were approved by the voters and should be used for the purposes intended and that the amounts of those revenues should not be subject to the Hancock Amendment. A similar resolution was introduced last year.

Missouri's clean air laws are subject to a "no stricter than federal" clause. The Missouri Air

Conservation Commission is prohibited from issuing rules that are more strict than similar federal regulations. Joan Bray's House Bill (HB 1060), which would repeal the restriction, received Audubon's third priority. This is an important issue because lobbyists for Missouri industries are intent on adding similar restrictions on clean water and other environmental laws. When these restrictions apply, Missouri environmental regulators are unable to react to situations which may be peculiar to Missouri, or important here but relatively unimportant elsewhere.

Two issues tied for the fourth priority. A mining tax abatement and severance fee act proposed by the Sierra Club provides for a tax credit to lead producers who process recycled lead and for a severance fee per pound of lead mined that will be applied to the reduction of air and water pollution and for reclamation and restoration activities at mining areas that are now inactive. The second issue here is a House Bill (HB 923) that provides penalties for the defamation of agricultural products. This bill is similar to the one in Texas under which Oprah Winfrey has been brought into court for allegedly libeling hamburgers--because of the dangers of mad cow disease.

Fifth priority was also split between 2 issues: support for a Sierra Club proposal for restrictions on confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and support for a Senate Bill (SB 706) introduced by Francis Flotron (Chesterfield) that allows cities to regulate billboards. Large intensive feeding operations for hogs and chickens would be treated as industrial facilities.

Other issues which the Audubon Council will follow include bills to facilitate automobile emissions tests in the metropolitan St. Louis area, a bill to permit the use of reformulated gasoline in the St. Louis area (to reduce auto emissions), a bill permitting the Department of Transportation to designate high occupancy lanes on Missouri highways, drinking water legislation, and limits on honoraria paid to state legislators.

Issues change rapidly in Jefferson City, but experience shows that we won't know the outcome for many bills until the last week, or indeed the last day, of the session.

Help Yourself to Information on the Internet and Find Your Congressmen

by Jim Malone

In this third and final installation in a series of articles about Internet sites of interest to Auduboners, we will take a look at the kinds of information you can get about our government and what legislators are doing. We will then finish up this column with a review of some of the resources available over the Internet which can help you find information for any subject that grabs your attention.

One of the best organized places to get lots of information about your government is through an Internet search provider known as "Yahoo." The government part of Yahoo resides at www.yahoo.com/Government/U_S_Government. You can also simply enter Yahoo by typing www.yahoo.com; then you can look around the site a bit to see what other wonders have been collected for you. Clicking once on the "Government" hotlink (text that is highlighted in a different color--often blue--and usually underlined) will take you to the associated listing.

For instance, if you wanted to know how your senators and representatives voted on a number of bills and proposals in the past year, you can find the hotlink for this in Yahoo, or go directly to www.pathfinder.com/cgi-bin/congress-votes. This site has a complete listing of the individual actions voted on by Congress; the identification number for each action is a hotlink to another location which gives details of the action being voted on. At the bottom of this list, you enter your zip code, and a new list is generated showing how your senators and/or representatives voted for each action (nice to know when voting time rolls around). Now, armed with this information, you can go back to Yahoo and get e-mail addresses for each of your senators and representatives, or even link to their home pages to get a better idea of what legislation they are presently supporting.

It is also easy to find out about bills that are presently going through Congress by visiting http://www.yahoo.com/Government/U_S_Government/Legislative_Branch/Bills. This location has links to the bill list for each session of Congress and hotlinks to numerous actions presently moving through the process. A link to the White House at point.lycos.com/reviews/Government_3422.html opens up an interactive handbook that gives indexes of government information, information about the White House, and the executive branch of our government.

Join Our Audubon Adventure Trips in '98

by Paul Bauer

For the first time St. Louis Audubon will offer 3 different foreign adventure trips in 1998. The continued success of our past trips prompts us to offer our members and friends more opportunities to share unique experiences in exceptional wildlife destinations.

In **June** we will again repeat our stunning birding and wildlife safari in **Kenya** and **Tanzania**. This trip is explained in the box below in more detail, and again I will serve as the escort. Read the summary, request an itinerary, and plan to join us.

For **September** we will cruise among the **Galapagos Islands**, where the wildlife is so tame that you must take care not to step on them! Plus we have the option to explore several national parks in the **highland Andes** of **Ecuador**. This region is an exceptional birding area. Each change in altitude means a different group of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds.

Finally in **November** we will offer an exclusive safari limited to 10 persons to search again for the **mountain gorillas**, chimpanzees, and other primates as well as birds in **Uganda**, plus an optional visit to **Murchison Falls**.

More details of the September and November trips will appear in the April issue of *Tale Feathers*. Also you may call me at 314/921-3972 to obtain detailed itineraries for any of these trips.

Kenya in June: Our first 1998 adventure is a **14-day birding and wildlife safari to Kenya in East Africa from June 8-21**. We will enjoy 5 excellent lodges and visit 7 game reserves and national parks. Some of these reserves are larger than all of St. Louis City and County combined. Our exceptional birding and naturalist guide, James Ngethe, has over 30 years of birding experience in East Africa. This is our fifth year of offering this trip to Kenya, and we have fine tuned it to maximize our enjoyment of wildlife. With James as our guide, we have come to expect over **300 species of birds** and between **40 to 50 species of animals**!

For most travelers, their first wildlife safari to East Africa will be the most exciting adventure of their lives. No previous wildlife experience can match East Africa and the wonder of seeing such huge numbers of game animals and so many kinds of animals at such close range. For those wanting to see large numbers of birds, again no place on earth can offer more species that are so easy to find and enjoy. Wildlife photography also offers a continuous keen level of excitement

because live subjects are everywhere and often at "point-blank" range.

Our basic trip fits the 2-week vacation time limit for many travelers. However, we also offer optional pre-trip and post-trip extensions for those who want the most trip for the same airfare and want to enjoy a longer, more varied exposure to East African adventure, plus up to 200 more bird species!

Tanzania Pre-Trip: This 7-day adventure starts on June 1. We will spend 2 days each in 3 national parks in northern Tanzania, including **Ngorongoro Crater**, Africa's "Garden of Eden." James will also be our birding and naturalist guide for this optional pre-trip.

Western Kenya Post-Trip: Our lengthened 7-day optional extension will now visit 4 special birding regions in Western Kenya. Included are the Kakamega rainforest, unique in Kenya, and Lake Baringo, a freshwater lake in the Rift Valley, plus Saiwa Swamp National Park and Delamere's Camp on Lake Elmenteita. James will continue to be the birding guide for this exciting extension.

Request a Detailed Itinerary: Contact **Paul Bauer** by calling 314/921-3972 or writing to:

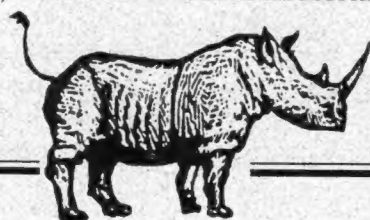
St. Louis Audubon Trips
P.O. Box 2085
Florissant, MO 63032

JOURNEY TO EAST AFRICA WITH ST. LOUIS AUDUBON 14-DAY BIRDING, WILDLIFE & PHOTO SAFARI TO KENYA JUNE 8-21, 1998

OUR 5TH YEAR OFFERING TOURS TO EAST AFRICA
\$3950 per Person (double occupancy) including ALL Airfare from New York

YOUR TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- * 7 National Parks & Game Reserves in Kenya
- * Naturalist Guide with 30+ Years Birding in East Africa
- * Over 300 Bird Species & 40+ Animal Species,
Often in Huge Numbers at "Point Blank" Range for Photos
- * Superior Accommodations Throughout; 5 Different Lodges
- * 3 Exceptional Meals Daily While on Safari
- * Private Minivans for Game Viewing with Pop-up Roof
- * Window Seat for Everyone; Standing in Aisle for Photos
- * Vans Chauffeured by Professional Driver/Guide
- * All Gratuities for Baggage Handling, Hotel Tips, Taxes, &
all Park Entrance Fees
- * Paul Bauer, Escort & Past St. Louis Audubon President



OPTIONAL EXTENSION TRIPS

- * 7-Day TANZANIA Pre-Extension Departs June 1, 1998.
 - We Spend 2 Days each at 3 National Parks, including Ngorongoro Crater, Africa's Garden of Eden.
 - Same Birding Guide will serve on this Pre-Extension.
- * 7-Day WESTERN KENYA Post-Extension Returns June 28, 1998.
 - We NOW Visit 4 Special Birding Regions: Kakamega Rainforest, unique in Kenya; Lake Baringo, a freshwater lake in the Rift Valley; Saiwa Swamp National Park; & Delamere's Camp on Lake Elmenteita.
 - Same Birding Guide will continue on this Extension.

**REQUEST A DETAILED COLOR ITINERARY —
GET ALL THE PARTICULARS**

CALL: PAUL BAUER AT 314/921-3972

WRITE: ST. LOUIS AUDUBON TRIPS
P.O. BOX 2085
FLORISSANT, MO 63032



Warm Toes at Riverlands in January

by John Solodar

Cold fingertips and toes just seem to come with winter outdoor activities regardless of how well covered you are. This year I finally decided to try a new approach and purchased the type of self-heating warmers which are advertised in general outdoors magazines and catalogs but don't seem to find their way into birding journals such as Audubon's.

These warmers come as a small cloth bag of fine mesh with a mixture of iron filings, charcoal, and other ingredients contained within. Their warming activity stems from the fact that when exposed to the air, the iron filings are slowly oxidized to iron oxide (rust) and heat is given off in the process. The packages are neat and clean, and we have not had any problems with leakage.

We bought warmers in 2 types, as a soft cloth bag intended to warm hands and pockets and as a stiffer paperbacked cloth container which is designed to keep feet warm. One peels back a protective film which exposes a sticky surface. This surface is placed on one's sock underneath the toes and the ball of the foot. The foot and warmer can then slide into the shoe very easily with the sticky surface holding the warmer in place.

On the Audubon birding trip to Riverlands on January 10 (initial temperature of 15°), Nancy and I were just amazed at the performance of these warmers. Our feet never really felt overly warm, but after a couple of hours we realized that our feet and toes were very comfortable--no cold feelings at all. It was just like wearing normal footwear in 72° conditions. Nancy, incidentally, was wearing tennis shoes rather than boots.

The hand/pocket warmers actually felt fairly warm to the touch. They kept our pockets warm so that cold fingers could be inserted into the pocket for a few minutes and warmed up. Alternatively, we slipped the warmers inside the palms of our gloves and kept our fingers warm that way, too.

I bought our warmers through a mail order company, but most sports and outdoors stores should have them, especially if they cater to hunters. The cost is about \$1.50 for each pair of hand warmers and foot warmers--or \$3 total to keep 1 person comfortable on a cold outing.

The warmers keep working for about 6 to 7 hours. They are not recyclable. We dispose of ours by letting the warmers sit on the kitchen counter or a concrete floor overnight to ensure that all heating activity is complete. Then they just go into the trash.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



Audubon Camp Scholarships Available

by Julie Leemann

The St. Louis Audubon Society is once again pleased to offer 2 scholarships to the Audubon ecology camps run by the National Audubon Society. The camps are located in Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, and Wyoming. Attendance at an Audubon camp can enrich your life.

The scholarships cover the cost of the 6- or 7-day session fee. Transportation costs are the responsibility of the selected recipients.

Educators are especially encouraged to apply. Camp scholarship information is typically sent to the science coordinators of the St. Louis area school districts in late January. Interested applicants unable to obtain this information from their science coordinators should contact:

Julie Leemann
1004 Sanders
Crestwood, MO 63126
H# 962-2093 (evenings)

Persons interested in attending a camp on their own or obtaining information on other U.S. and international Audubon ecology workshops should contact:

National Audubon Society
Camps and Ecology Workshops
613 Riversville Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06831
Ph. 203/869-2017
e-mail: aew@audubon.org

Dave Tylka Receives Faculty Lecture Award

by Jim Holsen

Dave Tylka, associate professor of biology, received the 1998 Faculty Lecture Award from the Meramec Campus, St. Louis Community College, on January 6. Criteria for the award are excellence of achievement in instruction, enthusiasm for teaching, and evidence of concern for community college students.

Dave is a past president of St. Louis Audubon and has twice led the Society in strategic planning exercises that made Audubon a model for other organizations. His most recent strategic plan was

approved by the board this past December.

In accepting the award, Dave took "For Nature's Sake" as the topic for his lecture before an assembly of the faculty and many of his friends. He made an impassioned plea for all of us to limit the impact of our activities on nature--and to do so in a meaningful manner, not just in "feel good" ways that have little long-term effect.

Using the formula $I=P+T+C+G$, he argued that our impact on the environment is influenced by 4 factors: population, technology, consumption, and government. We must work to limit the impact of population, technology, and consumption and to see that government has a constructive role to play in the process.

At Meramec, Dave teaches conservation and ecology, field zoology, and biology courses. In addition to many other award-winning activities, Dave was most recently the natural resource coordinator for the professional design team that prepared the final Forest Park Master Plan. The success in future years of the Plan will be due in large part to Dave's vision for a plan integrating the forests, grasslands, and wetlands into an urban ecological resource that we and our children can all enjoy for many years to come.

INTERNET . . . from page 4

If you want to send an e-mail directly to Mr. Clinton, use http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html.

You might ask how I was able to find these sites. Typically, I start out using 1 of the Internet search services. You have already seen how to use Yahoo to find things in pre-existing categories. If you want information that doesn't really fit into these types of categories, you can also search Yahoo by entering the subject you want to find. Other wonderful sites for searching the Internet include AltaVista (altavista.digital.com), Lycos (www.lycos.com), Infoseek (www.infoseek.com), and WebCrawler (www.webcrawler.com), to name a few.

While you are at it, search for the St. Louis Audubon Society in February, and you should be able to see our new Internet home page showing the aims of the Society, who we are, our activities, and upcoming events. The site address is not yet available, but this will give you a good opportunity to practice your new searching skills. Happy surfing!

Audubon Society of MO Meeting at Mingo

by Paul Bauer

The word has gotten around; the ideal place to bird in late April is in southeast Missouri centered on Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Duck Creek Conservation Area, and Lake Wappapello. Audubon Society of Missouri's (ASM) spring meeting dates of April 24 to 26 will put us near the peak of spring migration for the returning migrants, since the Mingo area is 1 week ahead of our St. Louis area farther north.

All details for this trip are available in a mail-out package that you can request from Paul Bauer at 921-3972 or by mail from him at P.O. Box 2085, Florissant, MO 63032.

LODGING: This year ASM will use a private group camp, SEMO, on Lake Wappapello which offers a much lower cost than 2 nearby available motels. The camp cabins have bunk beds, and tent camping is permitted. The area can also accommodate 4 RV's.

FOOD: The Saturday evening dinner and Sunday lunch meals will be catered, so we can all be together. All other meals are on your own; the Fisherman's Net and Puxico Restaurants are suggested since they are the largest available.

FIELD TRIPS: Birding trips are scheduled to all areas of Mingo, and to Otter Slough and Duck Creek for shorebirds. Plant trips are also offered to visit swamps and the unique plants on Holly Ridge. Canoes may also be available at the camp.

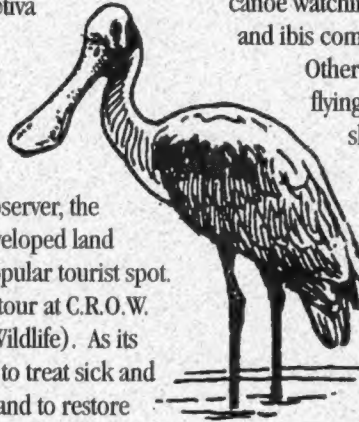
Make plans now to join the fun in this unique region of Missouri at the most prime time! Request your package of information mentioned above.

Birding at Sanibel

by Lynne Breakstone

For a birder from St. Louis, what better winter vacation than some place with sandhill cranes in the median on the road to the airport? And with roseate spoonbills and ospreys *all over*? For my husband and me, Sanibel Island, Florida, was perfect: roughly one third of the island is comprised of the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and more is covered by the S.C.C.F. grounds (Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation). Another heartening aspect of Sanibel Island--its wise land-use planning. It has strict density and zoning policies, and to the casual observer, the ratio of developed and undeveloped land seems very balanced for a popular tourist spot.

A big treat was a talk and tour at C.R.O.W. (Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife). As its name suggests, its mission is to treat sick and wounded animals and birds and to restore them to the wild. Its recovery cages had ospreys, brown pelicans, cormorants, a blue jay (!), a great blue heron, and a pair of pine warblers, among others. A second orientation of C.R.O.W.'s mission is education: with videos, talks, photos, etc. it educates the public about potential situations and activities which could cause harm to wildlife. The organization has been operating for 30 years without any state or national funding; its sole source of funding is private donations. Sometimes it is not able to release a creature back into the wild, such as the osprey I saw whose wing had to be amputated. In the case of birds of prey, our own St. Louis World Bird Sanctuary is one of the facilities



across the country to which C.R.O.W. would send a raptor which could no longer survive on its own.

A highlight of the trip was a canoe excursion with Mark "Bird" Westfal, a naturalist with a passionate zeal for preserving habitat. He took us through mangrove forests, which he calls "caves," and we loved hearing him "talk" to the ospreys, ibises, and herons: he mimicked their calls as we passed in order to lessen their anxiety about our presence. At sunset we sat in our canoe watching large flocks of herons, egrets, and ibis coming into favorite trees to roost.

Other treats included a Cooper's hawk flying quite low in the refuge, a red-shouldered hawk about 8 feet away on a sign, a snowy egret on top of a car in a parking lot, and great egrets almost as common in roadside ditches as crows here. Flocks of white pelicans sat together on sandbars in the shallow waters; we learned that they are the second largest bird after the California condor. We also

viewed a single common loon on the mudflats at sunset--rated as "uncommon" in the Ding Darling Refuge bird list. And then, of course, there were all the shorebirds: gulls, willets, sandpipers, dunlin, dowitchers, and many more.

As we were taxiing down the runway to return to wintry St. Louis, my husband said, "Do you think we'll see any more sandhill cranes?"

Soon after my answer, "Oh heavens, no. They're not going to be out here right next to the tarmac with all the airplanes," came out of my mouth, we saw a sandhill crane right out of the plane's window as we took off!

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Mrs. Katherine Chambers, Membership Chairperson
St. Louis Audubon Society 7XCH8
7024 Forsyth
St. Louis, MO 63105

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St. Louis Audubon Society

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To contact the St. Louis Audubon Society, please call (314) 822-6595.

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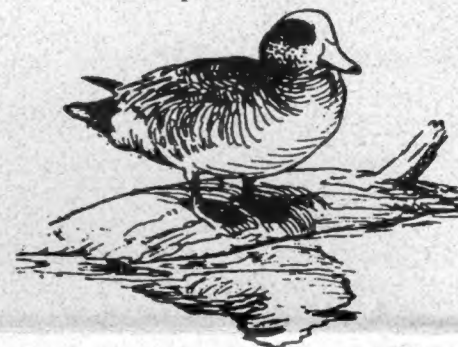
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Award Nominations Requested

Nominations for the St. Louis Audubon Society Conservationist of the Year or the Robert J. Terry Award should be sent by March 1 to:

Julie Leemann
1004 Sanders
Crestwood, MO 63126

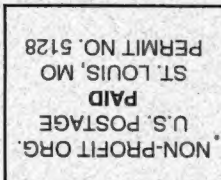
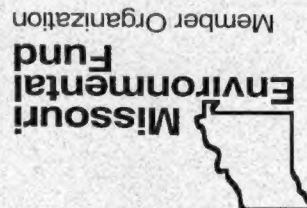
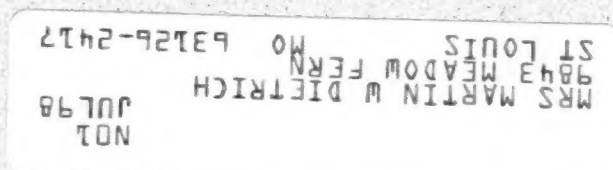
These awards will be presented at Audubon's annual dinner on April 23.



Newsletter Information

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Please send any article submissions for the next edition by **March 20, 1998** to Karen Tylka, 3155 Frisco Hill Road, Imperial, MO 63052 (H# 942-3142).



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